

REMARKS:

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-3, 6-8, 10 and 12-13 were pending and considered. Claims 1-3, 6-8, 10 and 12-13 stand rejected. Pursuant to this Amendment, claims 1 and 13 have been amended. Claims 1-3, 6-8, 10 and 12-13 remain pending in the subject application.

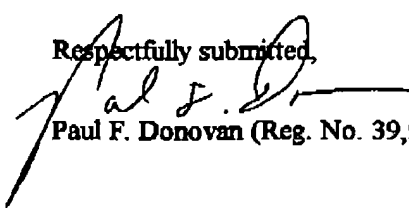
Claims 1-3, 6-8, 10 and 12-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,039,523 (Kraus). This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Without agreeing with the Examiner as to what is or is not taught by the art of record, claim 1 has been amended to more clearly set forth what it is the Applicant desires to patent. More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the channel in the head of the grommet extends completely through the head such that a portion of the sealing mechanism is positioned above the upper surface of the head and a portion of the sealing mechanism is positioned below the undersurface of the head. Claim 13 has been amended to recite that the pin is configured such that the catchment mechanism of the pin is positioned adjacent to a tip thereof that is spaced apart from a head of the pin such that the reduced diameter portion of the pin is located intermediate of the head of the pin and the catchment mechanism of the pin. Contrary to the position of the Examiner, Figs. 35-39 of Kraus do not illustrate these limitations and there is no teaching or suggestion in the art to modify Kraus to include these limitations. Thus, claims 1 and 13 are allowable. The claims depending from claim 1 are patentable for the same reasons applied thereto and for the additional subject recited in each.

No new matter has been added by way of the amendments and remarks made herein. Reconsideration and allowance of all the remaining pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the event that there are any issues that need to be addressed, in order to expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,


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